

## B. Claims

Please amend claims 56-58, 60, 64, 66-68 and 74-82 and cancel claims 53 and 55 without prejudice. A complete listing of all the claims appears below; this listing replaces all earlier amendments and listings of the claims.

1. - 55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition[[,]] according to claim 74, wherein the hydrophilic or lipophilic drug is selected from the group consisting of bromocriptine, octreotide, ~~or~~ and an acid addition salt thereof.

57. (Currently Amended) A process[[,]] for the preparation of the pharmaceutical composition of claim ~~52~~ 74, which comprises the step of:

combining a polymer<sub>x</sub> which is off-white to white in color[[,]] and which polymer contains one or more metals in cationic form, with the drug compound to form an implantate or a microparticle.

58. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition[[,]] according to claim 74, wherein the off-white to white color is further defined by the requirements of the colour strengths of reference solutions B<sub>2</sub>-B<sub>9</sub> of the brown colour test of the European Pharmacopoeia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (1980) part I, Section V, 6.2.

59. (Cancelled)

60. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer.

61. - 63. (Cancelled)

64. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer having a mean molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of from 10,000 to 200,000.

65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 100-25/0-75.

67. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 75-25/25-75.

68. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a lactidal glycolide molar ratio of 60-40/40-60.

69. - 73. (Cancelled)

74. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) a polylactide polymer in a purified state, wherein the polylactide polymer in a purified state is an ester of a polyol containing at least three hydroxyl groups and is off-white to white in color, and wherein the polylactide in a purified state contains one or more metals in cationic form, wherein the one or more metals have a concentration up to 10 ppm; and

(b) a hydrophilic or lipophilic drug.

75. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polyol is glucose.

76. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is an implant.

77. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is a microparticle.

78. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer having a mean molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of from 25,000 to 100,000.

79. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 60, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer is a polylactide co-glycolide polymer having a mean molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of from 35,000 to 60,000.

80. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a polydispersity  $M_w/M_n$  of from 1.7 to 3.0.

81. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer has a polydispersity  $M_w/M_n$  of from 2.0 to 2.5.

82. (Currently Amended) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 74, wherein the polylactide co-glycolide polymer further comprises of:

(a) monomer in a content of at most 1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(b) water in a content of at most 1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(c) ash in a content of at most 0.1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(d) organic solvent in a content of at most 1% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer;

(e) ethyl hexanoate in a content of at most 0.5% by weight of the polylactide co-glycolide polymer, and

(f) an acid number up to 10.